



MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

BAN ON FRACKING WITH CO₂

A.8866 – KELLES

S.8357 – WEBB

Description: Extends New York State’s existing ban on high-volume hydraulic fracturing to include the use of carbon dioxide in gas and oil extraction.

Justification

New York State passed the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) to fight climate change and transition the state away from fossil fuels to renewable energy resources—fracking by any method is in direct conflict with this nation-leading law. Fracking will not only increase the state’s reliance on fossil fuels but will also contribute significant leakage of methane and CO₂, which are greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change.

Fracking operations by any method poses a threat to public health—people living near natural gas drilling operations experience higher rates of a multitude of health impacts, including cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, cancer, low birth weights, and premature death. Additionally, the methane-containing shale formations in New York contain naturally occurring radioactive substances that are brought to the surface during the drilling process, further threatening public health and water quality.

Experience has demonstrated that fracking does not provide the economic benefit that had been promised. Independent economic analyses showed that the promise of job creation from hydraulic fracturing, especially in the Marcellus Shale region of Appalachia, was greatly exaggerated, with most of the fracking-related jobs going to out-of-area workers. Further, during the height of the fracking boom the most intensely drilled counties in Appalachia typically experienced both net job loss and population loss, and money that was expected to stay in the community was spent elsewhere.

New York State led the nation by banning the process of high-volume hydraulic fracturing due to its inherent risks—fracking with CO₂ poses similar threats to our health, climate, and water; and should be prohibited. Since 2023, leases have been offered to residents in the Southern Tier to extract gas by injecting CO₂ into shale formations; it is imperative that the legislature take action to stop this harmful practice now. CCE supports a ban on fracking with CO₂ and urges the legislature to pass this legislation as soon as possible.

CITIZENS CAMPAIGN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT SUPPORTS

A.8866/S.8357—Ban on Fracking with CO₂

CCE is a 120,000-member non-profit, non-partisan advocacy organization that works to empower communities and advocate solutions that protect public health and the natural environment

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